

Appomattox Iron Works:
20-28 Old Street
Petersburg
Petersburg City
Virginia

HAER No. VA-25

HAER
VA,
27-PET,
32-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HAER
VA
27-PET,
32-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

VA-25

APPOMATTOX IRON WORKS

Date: 1899

Location: 20-28 Old St. Petersburg, VA

Owned by: Originally: Esek Steer and family
Presently: Frank L. Peckinpaugh

Significance: A unique complex of structures which document the transition from antebellum agricultural economy to industrial development in the South following the Civil War. It is also one of the most complete physical records of an early iron foundry in the country.

Transmitted by: Gary R. Arabak and Dan Clement, 1983

Until casting ceased during World War II, the Appomattox Iron Works produced a wide range of agricultural and industrial products, but prior to the 1860s no foundries existed in the center of Petersburg. Before this castings were produced in the industrialized north and shipped south. However, following the Civil War, the commercial character of Petersburg was radically altered. The city faced a threatening decline in population that left many buildings vacant and empty. Property changed hands frequently and bankruptcies were common. As Petersburg recovered, small industries mingled among the dry goods stores and markets in the center of the city. The industries took over small unused antebellum storefronts and homes and remodeled them to suit their needs.

The Appomattox Iron Works started this way. First appearing as the Appomattox Foundry Company, they were located at 33 Old Street (immediately across from the present site), where they produced plows and agricultural equipment for local farmers. Although no listing of the original owners is available it is probable that the Steer family, that came to dominate the company later, was already involved in the foundry's operations at this time.

A partnership of William G. Pearse (agent for the original company), E. J. Armstrong and Esek Steer was formed in 1877 and the by 1884 they had expanded the newly named Appomattox Iron Works to adjacent property at 35 Old St. During the next decade the company continued its rapid growth and by the early 20th century owned all the property on the block that fronted Old St.

The company reached its peak in the early 20th century under the direction of Ezek Steer. In 1916 a new company, the Appomattox Iron Works and Supply company, was formed on the same site by the descendants of Esek Steer. This operated until War World II when automated casting techniques and the standardization of large numbers of products made small foundries like Appomattox largely unprofitable. The foundry closed in 1946, and the machine shop ceased operations six years later. The mill and supply shop kept open until 1972.

It was the reluctance of Leslie Albert Steer to sell the property which prevented its demolition. Upon his death the property was purchased by the Historic Petersburg Foundation Inc. and they in turn sold it to Mr. Frank Peckinpaugh, who opened a small museum and hand worked forge on the site. As of 1976 he planned to selectively restore the buildings and property as a museum of late 19th century iron working and the South's Industrial Revolution. On August 11, 1976 the building was placed on the National Register. A copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form follows.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED MAY 3 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 11 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Appomattox Iron Works

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 20-28 Old Street

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

(in City)

CODE

730

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Frank Peckinpough

STREET & NUMBER

20 Old Street

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23803

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office of Hustings Court

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (3) (See continuation sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Dulaney Report--for City of Petersburg

DATE

1968

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Petersburg City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

STATE

Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fronting on the south side of Old Street between Pennester Alley and Exchange Alley in the ante-bellum commercial district of Petersburg is the Appomattox Iron Works complex, which operated at this location from 1899 until 1972. Consisting of nine buildings, the complex was equipped to handle different methods of iron making as they evolved in the mid- and late nineteenth centuries. Included among the buildings are the machine shop, the mill store, the supply room, the pipe shop, the carpenter's shop and pattern shop, the core room, the foundry building, the blacksmith's shop, and the ruins of a stable.

The machine shop, #28 Old Street, is a three-story, four-bay structure with a steeply pitched gable roof. Constructed between 1810 and 1825, this Federal-style structure apparently escaped the fire of 1815 which devastated the commercial district of the city. The front and rear walls are laid in Flemish bond with narrow mortar joints, while the side wall facing on Pennester Alley is laid in three-course American bond. When built, the machine shop provided for commercial functions on the first floor, with office and storage space being provided on the two upper floors and in the attic. The most striking feature of the building is the manner in which the living quarters are incorporated--one for which there is no parallel in the city. While in most buildings of the period the living quarters were placed directly above the first-floor shop, at #28 the living quarters were housed in a three-story apartment structure at the rear of the building. The living quarters share a common side wall with the structure fronting on Old Street but are housed under a separate and lower gable roof than the shop building. The front section of the building measures 40' x 42', while the living quarters measure 40' x 22'. A recent fire unfortunately destroyed the roofs of both sections and damaged the interior, however enough remains so that the building can be restored without major loss to its integrity. The first-level facade facing Old Street has been altered with the addition in the late nineteenth century of large double doors; the original composition probably consisted of the two existing entrance doors flanked by windows with nine-over-nine sash. All of the sash facing Old Street have the late nineteenth-century two-over-two sash. Each window has reeded limestone sills and wood lintels with corner blocks.

The first level was devoted to commercial uses, while the rear of the first floor may have contained the service areas for the living quarters. The second floor over the commercial area was plastered and was probably used for clerical and office space. The third floor and attic were not finished and would have been used as storage areas.

There is little remaining original fabric in the living quarters, the most noticeable feature being the fanlight double doors at the second-floor level on the rear wall. The doorway has a Federal architrave and carved keystone with central rope molding. The door recess has three recessed panels with applied moldings, a feature that was probably repeated on the doors, although they have been altered by the addition of crude windows in place of the upper two panels. The soffit of the eight-section fanlight is carved with horizontal reeding. The interior of the living quarters is finished throughout the second and third floors. The second floor was divided by a central hall with rooms to either side; the partitions have since been removed. Although some have been altered, the sash were originally nine-over-nine. In each room a typical three-part Federal architrave is used around the windows, and two sets of louvered interior blinds are at each window. The fireplaces, stripped of their mantels, are centered in the end walls. A molded chair rail, directly below the window sill, and wide-board wainscoting remain in some places. The same architrave is used in the third-floor rooms, although a simpler chair rail is employed. The window sashes are six-over-six. The third-floor

(See continuation sheet # 2)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Appomattox Iron Works is a unique complex of nine structures which detail the transition from an ante-bellum agricultural economy to the early decades of industrial development in the South following the War Between the States. Within the buildings of the Iron Works is one of the most complete physical records of an early iron foundry in the country. Mid-nineteenth-century machines whose major working components are wood stand by later more sophisticated early cast-iron machines, some even boasting simple pointed Gothic-arch design at a time when the machine was regarded as ornamental as well as functional. The wood patterns from which the majority of the items were cast at the ironworks remain in long, uncatalogued shelves ranging from small gears and andirons to massive boiler doors and three-foot-diameter gears.

The structures themselves cover the range of styles from the Federal commercial/residential structures, to mid-nineteenth-century functional mill buildings, to the commercial architecture of a late nineteenth-century store.

The oldest structure, the machine shop (#28 Old Street), bordering Pennester Alley, is an important element in Petersburg's ante-bellum commercial district, as it was spared in the disastrous fire of 1815 which levelled much of that area of the city. Early reports of the fire indicate it was stopped just east of #28. The lot on which this building stands was sold by Robert Caldwell to "Littleberry E. Stainback, Richard Drummond and Spencer Drummond, merchants and partners acting under the firm and stile [sic] of Littleberry E. Stainback and Company of the town of Petersburg," for \$5,230 (Deed Book 3, p. 539). L. E. Stainback was a shipping merchant, at the time when the port of Petersburg was the last navigable port on the Appomattox River and was one of the major inland ports in the state. The firm owned the structure until November 1850; it was probably this firm who constructed the building, as the previous owner, Robert Caldwell, owned the property only three months, and the deed of sale does not mention the building.

This building shows an important step in the construction of the large Federal-style commercial/residential structures in Petersburg, as it is the only remaining structure in the city where the living quarters were housed in an apartment under a separate roof at the rear of the building.

The Appomattox Foundry Company, as it was originally called in 1876, was located at #33 Old Street. Its agent was William G. Pearse. By 1888 the name had been changed to the Appomattox Iron Works with the address being given as #33 and #35. In 1891 the ironworks were being operated by the firm of Armstrong, Steer and Company. Apparently the move to the present location came in 1899, as the address that year is listed as #32-34 Old Street. In 1903 Esek and Albert L. Steers are listed as the proprietors of the Appomattox Iron Works at #28-34 Old Street.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, James H., Ph.D., untitled report on 20-28 West Old Street, Petersburg, Va.,
in possession of Appomattox Iron Works and Supply Co., Inc.
Kinpaugh, Frank, unpublished notes on Appomattox Iron Works Operations, 1976.
Directories, City of Petersburg, 1866-1903.
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
UTM REFERENCES

A 18 28,654,0 4,123,21,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

DATE

STREET & NUMBER Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

April 1976
TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN 221 Governor Street

804-786-3144

STATE

STATE

Richmond

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE APR 20 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Inventory of Petersburg Historic Districts for the City of Petersburg
1974 Local
Petersburg City Hall, Petersburg, Virginia
- (3) Historic American Engineering Record
1974 Federal
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

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| | 1975 |

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION

also had three rooms, but its partitions likewise have been removed. The upper floors were used as living quarters as late as 1876." [They] are now used for pattern storage. Some of the patterns date to at least 1850. The second floor (south side) contains a tool crib with drill press, shaper, surface grinder and drill grinder, plus cutting tools (hand made) and miscellaneous items for the first-floor machine shop. There is a homemade communication system with a dumb waiter for tool transport to the first floor.

"The first floor is devoted to the machine shop and contains 5 lathes, 2 shapers, 2 drill presses, miscellaneous grinders, a milling machine, a small forge set up and a large shear. All equipment is operated from an overhead drive shaft and two electric motors. The former drive was a steam engine (presently located outside the foundry). The machines date from about 1830 to 1890. The building also contains an electric hoist dating from 1890-1900. The primary function of the machine shop was secondary operations on the cast items from the foundry. Examples are: truing gear teeth, final boring of shaft holes in gears and drive pulleys, producing flat surfaces on mating surfaces, etc. Shafts and other malleable iron items would also be fabricated in this shop." (Frank Peckinpugh, unpublished notes on Appomattox Iron Works Operations, 1976

The blacksmith's shop to the rear of #28 and adjacent to Pennester Alley is a two-story brick structure with walls laid in three-course American bond. The building is a ruin, and its original appearance would be difficult to conjecture, but it was probably a summer kitchen for the living quarters of #28. The blacksmith's shop contains the remains of two forges. Here, where only malleable iron could be used, wrought iron fittings were formed to provide tools and hardware. Items such as tie bolts, hinges, wrenches, and nails were made in this shop.

East of #28 is a double building: three-and-one-half story #22 and three-story #24. Constructed between 1815 and 1825 of Flemish-bond brick with narrow mortar joints, the building is six bays wide and was significantly altered in the late nineteenth century. The structure is typical of the Federal period having been designed to accommodate commercial functions on the first floor and living quarters above. The first-floor elevations have had late nineteenth-century storefronts applied to them, and at the rear of both stores, long, gable-roof sheds with glass skylights were constructed to accommodate the mill store in #24 and the supply room and agricultural parts storage in #22. The window sashes have been altered to two-over-two. The second floor windows have pedimented metal cornices, supported by small metal consoles, and metal sills that were applied in the late nineteenth century, which cover the original window treatment. The third-floor windows have the pediments omitted from their metal cornices. The building's bracketed metal cornice is surmounted by an open-work metal balustrade, centered above the cornice, a typical feature employed in the decoration of roof lines of many late nineteenth-century commercial structures.

The upper floors of #24 appear to have been used for office and storage space. The

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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION (Cont'd.)

attic contains numerous wooden patterns, as did #28 before the fire, as well as a hand-operated windlass for hoisting materials from the first floor. The windlass has a six-foot-diameter power wheel which may be original to the structure.

The upper floors of #22 were designed as living space with a separate entrance on Old Street that was removed when the present storefront was installed and the stairs, which opened on Old Street, were turned to open into the supply room. The room arrangement on the second floor is a side-hall plan with twin parlors. The windows and doors have simple architrave trim and most of the original six-panel doors remain. Simple paneled window reveals remain at each window. The mantels in the parlors are quite similar, each having flat paneled pilasters with raised moldings supporting the entablature, featuring rectangular corner blocks and a rectangular center block, with a wide, projecting mantel shelf above. In the front parlor, the pilasters are decorated with four vertical rope moldings in the panels, and the corner and center blocks in the frieze are carved with simple, elliptical scalloped patterns. The stairs, at the rear of the hall, rising to the third floor have rectangular balusters, a square newel post, and a simple molded handrail. The mantels on this floor are twin mantels, each with a four-section stepped architrave forming the surround. The corner blocks above support a cornice with punch-and-dentil molding. The third floor was adapted for living space between 1840 and 1850 and has simple Greek Revival trim and doors with two recessed vertical panels. A slate roof remains on number #22, the dormers being Greek Revival additions when the attic space was utilized.

The main offices of the Appomattox Iron Works were located on the second and third floors of #22. Drafting of more intricate machine parts was done in these offices. Some office furniture dates from the mid-nineteenth century, and the office equipment, typewriters and dictating machines, dates from 1890 to 1920. The complete records of the Iron Works are housed in these offices.

The easternmost building facing Old Street is the pipe shop, built between 1880 and 1910, which, like #22 and #24, has a long skylighted work room to the rear, with service doors onto Exchange Alley. This area was used for steel and pipe storage and contained a hacksaw, pipe threaders, and hand-operated shear. The materials from the pipe shop were turned into finished items in the machine shop and sold as mill supplies.

Behind #22 and #24 is the carpenter shop and pattern shop, a two-story brick structure laid in seven-course American bond, probably constructed between 1850 and 1860. The north side of the building was demolished, and a large two-story wood addition was built to accommodate the necessary equipment, probably in the late nineteenth century. The carpenter and pattern shop contains a planer, joiner, cross-cut saw, table saw, mortise and 20 ft. timber straightening planer on the first floor; a band saw, lathe, trimmer, drill press, labeling machine, bender, tool grinder and planer blade grinder on the second floor.

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CONTINUATION SHEET #4

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

DESCRIPTION (Cont'd.)

"The equipment dates from 1830 to 1900 and is currently set up with overhead drive line from electric motors, originally they were steam driven!... [The oldest piece of equipment is the twenty-foot timber straightening planer.]

"The wooden patterns for castings were made in this shop. Patterns are used to form the mold cavity and are required to be built with draft for withdrawal from the sand mold, plus allowance for shrinkage of the molten metal....

"The carpenter shop portion of the building was used to form the wooden structures of the primitive type equipment made at the complex, examples are corn huskers, peanut shellers plow frames and saw mills." (Ibid.)

The major building in the complex is the foundry. Built about 1850, this massive brick structure, laid in American bond, was the center of activity in the foundry complex. The structure is five bays wide with double sliding doors on either side. A three-row corbelled brick cornice finishes the walls. The slate roof is supported by forty-two-foot Howe Trusses, above which is a rectangular clearstory lighted by six ganged windows on each of its long sides. "The foundry building contains the last remaining foundry boom of its type in the U. S... The wooden boom covers a 40 ft. diameter circle with a rack gear for radial movement of the hand hoist. A floor pit furnace was used for melting non-ferrous metals like brass. A typical cupola is located outside the foundry for melting cast iron. A through-the-wall tap is provided to remove the molten iron and reduce inside building heat. A belt-driven fan was used to supply the cupola draft. A home fabricated dual elevator system was driven from the same belt system. The elevator was used to hoist iron and coke to the loading level of the cupola. Misc. tools are located here for handling the molten metals. A small oven is located here to reduce the moisture content of the molds, particularly in the brass castings. Narrow gauge tracks and hand push cars were used for handling special molds on the floor and in the oven. A large selection of mold flasks of both wood and metal are stored here. (The flasks were used to contain the sand, which was rammed around the pattern to form the mold cavity. After removal of the pattern the core would be inserted and a pour hole and relief vents hand formed to complete the mold)." (Ibid.)

East of the foundry is the core room. Now a roofless ruin, the core room retains a towering square smoke stack and may have actually been part of another foundry building now completely destroyed. This building contains a core extruder and ovens for curing the cores. The cores were used to reduce the weight of casting and/or provide holes, example, ornamental columns could be cast with thin walls using cores, or gears could be cast with thru holes for shaft mounting. Cores were formed in wooden molds by tamping a special mixture of sand, clay and binder into the mold cavity. The core was then removed, coated with a release material like carbon black and then baked to set the binder. The building contains excellent examples of both core molds and cores still remaining after years of exposure to the elements. (They have been moved to a

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CONTINUATION SHEET #5

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

DESCRIPTION (Cont'd.)

protected area for preservation).

"The [ruins] of a two story stable building is located behind the foundry and was used for dray animals. The use [of the second floor] is unknown (most likely storage)... Located outside the stables is a 40 ft. crushing tower with a 500 lb. ball used to crush reject castings for remelting." (Ibid.)

JFY

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CONTINUATION SHEET #6 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE

There were iron operations on the site at least as early as 1850; the City Directory of 1866 shows that the Petersburg Iron Works, located at #44 Old Street, was operated by T. Alphonse Jackson, Superintendent.

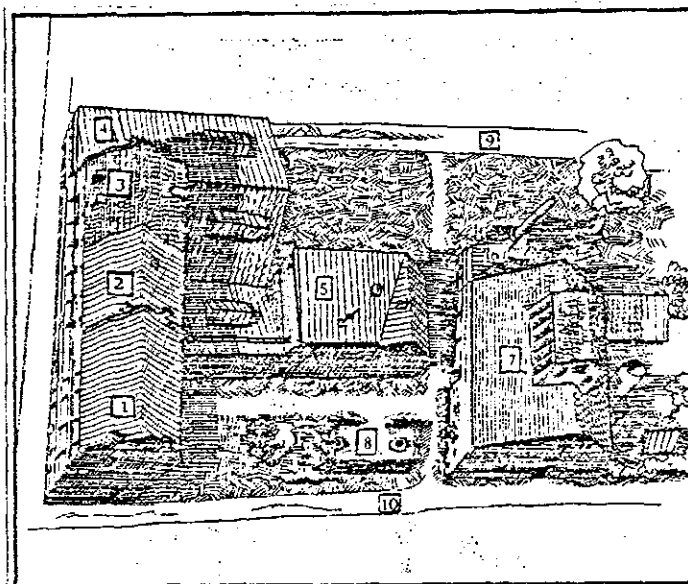
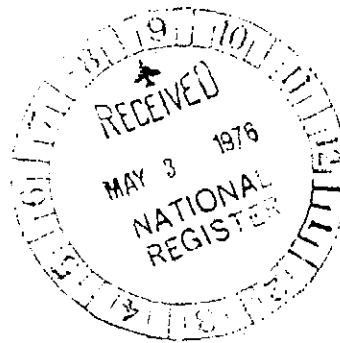
The foundry ceased operations in 1946. The machine shop operated until 1952, and the mill and supply store was closed in 1972.

One of the most noted inventions manufactured at the Appomattox Iron Works was the Peanut Sheller. Crafted of wood and metal, these machines were sold across the South--first, as hand-driven models and later, tractor driven.

The blacksmith shop supplied homes, farms, and businesses with items such as andirons, coal grates, hinges, hoes, tie bars, axes, fences, gates, wheels, gears, and shafts, from the basic components to finished machines. Without an operation such as the Appomattox Iron Works, the agricultural and commercial interests in and around Petersburg would have had to depend on distant manufacturers, something a thriving trading center could not afford. It is this accumulated collection of machines, patterns, molds, and ironworking tools that made the complex an outstanding record of ante-bellum iron manufacturing in the South.

The complex has been purchased by Mr. Frank Peckinpaugh, who has opened a small museum illustrating the former operation of the ironworks. A small forge operation producing such items as fireplace utensils and cooking utensils is in operation in the foundry building employing one of the hand-operated forges. It is the intention of the owner to restore the ironworks as a working museum displaying the mid-to late nineteenth-century ironworking techniques which were the first stages of the Industrial Revolution in the South. The complex of buildings and its contents have recently been recorded by the Historic American Engineering Record. The reports have not yet been completed.

JFY



- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Machine Shop | (6) Core Room |
| (2) Mill Store | (7) Foundry |
| (3) Supply Room | (8) Blacksmith Shop |
| (4) Pipe Shop "Antique Shoppe" | (9) Exchange Alley |
| (5) Carpenter - Pattern Shop | (10) Penmaster Alley |

Layout of Appomattox Iron Works,
Petersburg, Va. from brochure -
"Appomattox Iron Works Antiques"
1975 -- Living Quarters located
behind Machine Shop (1) are not
included in drawing.